



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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February 7, 2008
PSA-016

Volunteers Clear The Way For Native Plants' Return

Invasive, non-native plants are losing ground to native Virginia plant species thanks to the efforts of a growing troop of intrepid volunteers. Since 2006, volunteers in the Fairfax County Park Authority's Invasive Management Area (IMA) program have toiled tirelessly to reduce invasive plants and to restore natural habitats on parkland. Due to the initial successes of this community-based project, workdays will continue through the winter months. You are invited to choose a date and time and come out to help protect the plants and wildlife of Fairfax County.

Join us in a tree preservation workday at Marie Butler Leven Preserve in McLean on Saturday, February 10, 2008, from 10 a.m. to 1:00 pm, and then explore Fairfax County's Native Arboretum. Created in April 2004, the 20-acre Marie Butler Leven Preserve in McLean has transformed into an extensive native plant collection, organized to form a living field guide for the plants of Fairfax County.

A habitat restoration workday is scheduled at the same location on Saturday, February 24th. Participants must be 15 years and older, unless accompanied by an adult. These workdays are free to attend.

Have time during the week? Workdays are held every Wednesday at Lake Accotink Park in Springfield, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. See how volunteers have taken back the park from kudzu, the "vine that ate the south."

Partial funding for the IMA initiative is provided by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grant Program.

To participate in a February workday, or for the March schedule, call 703-324-8681 or email Katherine.Frederick@fairfaxcounty.gov. Learn more about invasive plant species at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources/IMA/>

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Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations, call 703-324-8563 or TTY 703-803-3354. Please allow ten working days in advance of events in order to make the necessary arrangements.